

**CLAIMS**

1. Cosmetic composition containing at least one branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, characterized in that the side chains at one branch point at least are ethyl, propyl or longer branched alkyl chains, the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin  
5 being obtainable by oligomerization of

- a) at least one branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 5 to 18 carbon atoms,
- b) at least one linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 10 carbon atoms,
- c) a mixture of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms  
10 and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms or
- d) a mixture of various branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and linear  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms

in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic  
15 acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids or Lewis-acid-based catalysts.

2. Cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin contains a total of 12 to 36, preferably 12 to 24 and more particularly 14 to 24 carbon atoms.

20 3. Cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin resulting from the oligomerization is subsequently hydrogenated.

4. Cosmetic composition as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that a mixture (c) of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 5 to 12  
25 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 12 carbon atoms is oligomerized in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids or Lewis-acid-based catalysts.

5. Cosmetic composition as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 4,  
30 characterized in that the linear  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group

consisting of 1-propene, 1-butene, 2-butene, 1-pentene and 2-pentene.

6. Cosmetic composition as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the branched  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 2-ethyl-1-hexene, 2-propyl heptene, 2-methyl-1-butene, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 3-methyl-1-pentene or 4-methyl-1-pentene.

7. Cosmetic composition as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that a mixture of 80% butene and 20% isobutene is oligomerized in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids or Lewis-acid-based catalysts.

8. Cosmetic composition as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that it is present in the form of a w/o or o/w emulsion.

9. Cosmetic composition as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that it contains 1 to 50% by weight, preferably 5 to 40% by weight and more particularly 5 to 25% by weight of oil components.

10. Cosmetic composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the percentage content of the at least one oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, based on the total quantity of oil components, is 0.1 to 100% by weight, preferably 1 to 50% by weight and more preferably 1 to 20% by weight.

11. A cosmetic composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that it contains 0.1 to 20% by weight, preferably 1 to 15% by weight and more particularly 1 to 10% by weight of a surface-active substance or a mixture of surface-active substances.

12. A cosmetic composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that it additionally contains at least one antiperspirant and/or deodorant active principle.

13. The use of an oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin obtainable by oligomerization of

(a) at least one branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 5 to 18 carbon atoms,

- (b) at least one linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms,
  - (c) a mixture of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 10 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms or
  - (d) a mixture of various branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and linear  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms
- 5

in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids or Lewis-acid-based catalysts and, optionally, subsequent hydrogenation of

10 the oligomerization product,

as oil components in cosmetic or pharmaceutical preparations, more particularly in antiperspirant and/or deodorant formulations.